

A Terrible Battle off the Philippines.

TWO OF THE ENEMY'S CRUISERS BURNED,

Several Sunk to Avoid Their Falling Into the Hands of the Victors,

AND THE OTHERS FORCED TO RETIRE FROM THE COMBAT.

Severe Damage Believed to Have Been Sustained by Commodore Dewey's Ships, Which Fail to Capture Manila—Details of Fight Not Yet Obtainable.

Madrid, May 1, 6.20 p. m.—Advices from Manila say that the American squadron under Commodore Dewey appeared off the Bay of Manila at 5 o'clock this morning and opened a strong cannonade against the Spanish squadron and forts protecting the harbor. The Spanish second class cruiser Don Juan de Austria was severely damaged and her commander was killed. Another Spanish vessel was burned. The American squadron retired, having also sustained severe damage.

A second naval engagement followed, in which the American squadron again suffered considerable loss and the Spanish warships Mindano and Ulloa were slightly damaged.

During this engagement the Cavite forts maintained a steadier and stronger fire upon the American squadron than in the first engagement.

Admiral Bermejo, the minister of marine, has expressed himself as highly pleased with the heroism of the Spanish mariners and has telegraphed congratulations to Admiral Montejó and the valorous crews of the Spanish squadron under fire of superior warships.

SPANISH OFFICIAL REPORT.

Madrid, May 1, 8 p. m.—The following is the text of the official dispatch from the governor general of the Philippines to the minister of war, Lient. General Correa, as to the engagement off Manila:

"Last night, April 30, the batteries at the entrance to the fort announced the arrival of the enemy's squadron, forcing a passage under the obscurity of the night. At daybreak the enemy took up positions, opening with a strong fire against Fort Cavite and the arsenal."

"Our fleet engaged the enemy in a brilliant combat, protected by the Cavite and Manila forts. They obliged the enemy, with heavy loss, to manoeuvre repeatedly. At 9 o'clock the American squadron took refuge behind the foreign merchant shipping on the east side of the bay."

"Our fleet, considering the enemy's superiority, naturally suffered a severe loss. The Maria Christina is on fire, and another ship, believed to be the Don Juan de Austria, was blown up."

"There was considerable loss of life. Captain Cadarzo, commanding the Maria Christina, is among the killed. I cannot give further details. The spirit of the army, navy and volunteers is excellent."

Madrid, May 1, 9 p. m.—The news from the Philippines has produced greatly increased enthusiasm, especially in view of the fact that the American squadron was obliged to retreat.

Notwithstanding the severe damage the Spanish ships sustained, naval officers here consider that further operations by the American squadron will be conducted under great difficulty, owing to having no base where they could repair and coal or obtain fresh supplies of ammunition.

Another account says the Mindano and Ulloa (or Ullao) were severely damaged in the second engagement.

Madrid, May 1, 10 p. m.—Admiral Bermejo, Minister of marine, joined the cabinet council this evening and informed his colleagues that the Spanish force had gained a victory in the Philippines. He asserted that he found difficulty in restraining his joyful emotions.

The official dispatch does not mention the destruction of any American vessel, although it says that the United States squadron finally cast anchor in the bay behind the foreign merchantmen.

Madrid, May 1—Midnight.—El Heraldo de Madrid says that Admiral Montejó changed his flagship during the engagement, or between the two encounters, in order to better direct the manoeuvres. In this way he escaped the fate of the commander of the Reina Maria Christina.

In the latter engagement the Spanish Mindano and Ulloa suffered heavily. Cabinet ministers speak of "serious but honorable losses."

Madrid, May 1—Midnight.—An official telegram received at a late hour from the governor general of the Philippines, says:

"Admiral Montejó has transferred his flag to the cruiser Isla de Cuba from the cruiser Reina Maria Christina. The Reina Maria Christina was completely burnt, as was also the cruiser Castilla, the other ships having retired from the combat and some being sunk to avoid their falling into the hands of the enemy."

Lisbon, May 1—11 p. m.—Reliable news received here says that the Spanish fleet was completely defeated off Cavite.

Commodore Dewey Expected to Renew the Attack on Manila.

London, May 1—While it is quite clear that the Spanish squadron has suffered a crushing defeat, the dispatches leave unclear the intensely interesting question whether the American squadron has suffered material damage.

All news thus far comes from Spanish sources; but it seems evident that Commodore Dewey has not captured Manila. Unless he is able to make another attack and capture the town, he will be in an awkward position, having no base upon which to retire and to rest.

It is probably, therefore, the United States squadron will be obliged to make for San Francisco, as the entrance to Manila Bay was heavily mined with torpedoes. Commodore Dewey displayed great pluck and daring in making for the inner harbor. According to private advices received from Madrid, the United States cruisers Olympia, Raleigh and two other vessels, the names of which are not given, entered the harbor.

It appears to be incorrect that the American ships finally anchored, behind the merchantmen on the East side of the bay. It should be the West side.

Probabilities point in the direction of the second engagement having occurred through the Spaniards trying to prevent the landing of the American wounded.

Reliable details cannot be had until Commodore Dewey's squadron is able to communicate with Hong Kong. There is, however, a suspicious frankness about the Spanish dispatches that savors of a desire to break unpleasant news to the Spaniards. It is not unlikely, therefore, that Commodore Dewey may be able to renew the attack.

THE TWO FLEETS.

Washington, May 1.—The following is a list of the two fleets engaged in the conflict at Manila:

UNITED STATES SHIPS.

Olympia, first-class protected cruiser, 5,800 tons; launched, 1892; speed, 21 knots; battery, four 8-inch rifles, ten 5-inch rapid-fire guns, fourteen 6-pounders, six 1-pounders and four machine guns.

Baltimore, second rate, 4,600 tons; speed, 20 6 knots; battery, four 8-inch, six 6-inch rifles, four 6-pounder rapid-fire, two 2-pounders, two 1-pounders, two 1-inch, two 1 1/2-inch and two machine guns.

Boston, second rate, 3,189 tons; speed, 15 knots; battery, two 8-inch, six 6-inch rifles, two 6-pounder rapid-fire, two 3-pounders, two 1-pounders, two one-point 8-inch, two one-point 4-inch and two machine guns.

Raleigh, second-class, speed, 19 knots; battery, one 6-inch and ten 5-inch rapid-fire rifles, eight 6-pounders, four 1-pounders and two machine guns.

Concord, third rate, 1,700 tons; speed, 17 knots; battery, six 6-inch, two 6-pounder rapid-fire, two 3-pounders, one 1-pounder and four machine guns.

Petrel, fourth rate, 890 tons; speed, 13 knots; battery, four 6-inch guns, two 3-pounder rapid-fire, one 1-pounder and four machine guns.

McCulloch, revenue cutter

Nashua, collier

Zafiro, supply vessel.

THE SPANISH FLEET.

Reina Maria Christina, 3,520 tons; built 1886; speed, 17 knots; battery, six 6.2 inch Hontoria guns; two 2.7 inch and three 2.2-inch rapid fire rifles, six 1.4-inch and two machine guns.

Castilla, 3,342 tons; built 1881; battery, four 5.9 inch Krupp rifles, two 4.7 inch, two 3.3 inch, four 2.5-inch rapid fire and two machine guns.

Velasco, 1,152 tons; battery, three 5.9-inch Armstrong rifles, two 2.7-inch Hontoria and two machine guns.

Don Antonio de Ulloa and Don Juan de Austria, each 1,130 tons; speed, 14 knots; battery, four 4.7-inch Hontoria two 2.2 inch rapid fire, two 1.5-inch and two machine guns.

General Lezo and El Cano, gun vessels, 524 tons; built 1885; speed, 11.5 knots. The General Lezo has two Hontoria rifles of 4.7-inch calibre, one 3.5-inch, two small rapid-fire and one machine gun; the El Cano, three 4.7-inch guns, two small rapid-fire and two machine guns.

Marques Del Duera, dispatch boat, 500 tons; one smooth-bore 6.3 inch calibre, two 4.7-inch and one machine gun.

The Isla de Cuba and the Isla de Luzon are both small gunboats. They are of 1,030 tons displacement and carry four 4.7-inch Hontoria, two small guns and two machine guns.

Isla de Mindaro, of the Compania Transatlantica de Cadiz, armed as a cruiser; length, 376 3; beam, 42 3; gross tons, 4,195; speed, 13 5.

Fierce Fire in Cuba.

Key West, Fla., April 30.—It is unofficially stated by Cubans to-night that Blanco is burning the interior towns in the island of Cuba, and it is believed that the truth of the statement is established by the great volumes of smoke which were noticed rising from the interior of the island yesterday. These fires were noticed between Matanzas and Habana by persons on the Associated Press-dispatch Dantless, and through out the night the bright glow of fires was reflected on the sky. In places fierce forest fires were seen burning.

The Cubans here are highly excited over the following telegram received from T. Estrada Palma of the New York junta:

"Assemble and send to Tampa immediately all young unmarried healthy Cubans disposed to go to Cuba; also all officers of our army. Delegation will not sustain families of enlisted."

Tampa is made the general rendezvous of the Cuban forces. Enlistments will begin here to-morrow morning.

THE OREGON AT RIO.

Far North of Possible Danger From the Spanish Destroyer.

Rio de Janeiro, April 30, 6 p. m.—Warship Oregon just arrived.

Washington, April 30.—There was a feeling of relief among officials to-night over the safe arrival of the Oregon at Rio, well to the north and out of possible reach of the Spanish torpedo boat Temario, which has been lying around the vicinity of Buenos Ayres. The keenest interest is taken in her future movements, but on account of the extreme reticence of the naval authorities the nature of the instructions which have awaited her at Rio are not known. The prevalent belief, however, is that her orders are to proceed to join Admiral Sampson's fleet without delay.

Imprisoned Spaniard of the Puritan's Crew Admits He Tried to Blow Up the Ship.

Key West, Fla., April 30.—Charles Yglesias, the Spanish fireman on the monitor Puritan, who was put in irons last Sunday when discovered trying to drill holes in the 12 inch magazine of the vessel, and who was found guilty by a court of inquiry as told in my dispatch yesterday, has admitted that he wanted to blow up the ship.

He has not been shot, as reported by other correspondents here, but it is believed that the infliction of the death penalty for his offense is merely a question of time. The court of inquiry, as already told, recommends a court-martial.

When Yglesias was first taken prisoner twelve members of the Puritan's crew tried to take him from the guard on the way to the vessel's brig, where he was to be confined, in order to kill him.—W. S. Quigley, in New York Mail and Express.

BUTLER FOR MAJOR GENERAL.

Senators Tillman and McLaurin Ask the Appointment.

Washington, D. C., April 30.—Senators Tillman and McLaurin, of South Carolina, to-day asked the President to appoint Gen. M. C. Butler, major general. Gen. Butler was a famous cavalry leader in the Confederate army and is a close friend of the President.

Without giving the South Carolina Senators any assurances of Gen. Butler's selection, the President spoke of him in the highest terms.

Senator Tillman and Representative Elliott were at the war department in connection with the contest between Charleston and Columbia, but the Secretary of War adheres to Charleston as the place of rendezvous.

Washington, April 30.—Although Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and Gen. "Joe" Wheeler will be made Major-Generals, it is the intention of the administration not to send them to the front, or to give them the leading commands, which it was supposed they would have. It is thought best to give such places to officers of the regular army. It has been shown that Gen. Lee's services will be especially valuable in Washington in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of War, on account of his intimate knowledge of Cuba and the conditions there.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

The Pope Prostrated.

Rome, May 2.—His Holiness is quite prostrated by the news from Manila. He has expressed his horror at the terrible loss of life, and repeatedly said that he could have wished to have died before seeing such a war.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Climate and Crop Bulletin of the Weather Bureau, South Carolina Section.

For the Week Ending Monday, May 2, 1898.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 3.

The week opened with seasonable warmth but by the middle of the week the temperature fell to almost freezing over central counties. Ice was, indeed, reported, from various points and as far southward as Hampton and Barnwell counties, with heavy white frost on the morning of April 28th over the state generally, including the vicinity of Charleston. On that morning the temperature was as low, or lower, than the previous records of the weather bureau, extending over a period of eleven years, show for the third decade of April.

The cold weather did not last long, and the week ended with temperatures considerably above the normal.

The average of 48 places reporting mean temperature was 58 for the week, while the normal for the same period is approximately 68. The temperature ranged between a minimum of 34 on the 28th at Santuc and Little Mountain, and a maximum of 90 on May 1st at Batesburg.

The cold, heavy rain of April 26-27th was general over the state, and in places accompanied by high winds, sleet, and hail. In the Southeastern portions of the state the rain was needed, and in the vicinity of Charleston more would prove beneficial, but generally this rain fell on an already saturated soil, causing minor creeks and branches to overflow, and in Edgefield county damaging lands, wasting them. Considering the area by and topographical diversity of the state, the rainfall was remarkable for its even distribution.

Four places only, out of 47, reported amounts of less than one inch; 13 of from 1 to 2 inches, 19 of from 2 to 3 inches; and 12 with three inches or more. The following excessive measurements were reported, Mont Clare 4.00; Oskland 5.25; Alcola 5.50; Shiloh 5.25 inches; The average for the State was 2.37 and the normal for the same period is approximately 0.78.

The sunshine averaged 74 per cent of the possible. The prevailing winds were from NW to NE generally cold, and at times high and were an important factor in making the weather unfavorable on crops.

All correspondents, without exception, characterize the past week as having been unfavorable on the growth of crops, by reason of too much rain or too low temperatures or both as well as the bad effects of high winds in places.

Little progress was made in planting corn, and germination of recently planted corn is slow. It is coming up to irregular stands, although some sections report fair stands. Much replanting is necessary, and worms are damaging corn badly in places. The cool weather caused it to look yellow and checked its growth. Early corn is receiving its second cultivation. Some bottom lands have been planted but the recent rains made them too wet and stopped planting operations on them. The recent frost did not kill any corn.

Wet and cold weather have had a bad effect on cotton which everywhere has stopped growing. Some cotton was killed by the frost, although such damage was confined to limited areas, but the frost effectually checked its growth everywhere and gave it a set-back.

Seed recently planted are slow in coming up and much replanting is necessary. Some fields where the cotton failed to come up, or was killed by frost, are being planted to corn. Little progress was made in planting and over the western and northwestern counties much land already prepared, remains to be planted to cotton.

Rice seeding is practically completed for early planting, but the cool weather injured the stand and vitality of the plants which made no growth during the week.

Transplanting of tobacco is nearly finished in the more southerly districts and is well under way in Marion and Marlboro counties. The ground is in good condition in regard to moisture, but too cool for the young plants. Injury from cut worms is also reported.

Sweet potato draws growing better lately and slips being transplanted.

Melons were killed by the frost of the 28th in places and badly set back everywhere. The remainder of the

very poor stand of melons and point to a late crop.

The fruit outlook is on the whole very promising a few localities, only report total destruction by the frost in early April, while a few scattered reports indicate that peaches and plums are dropping badly. The frost of the week did no injury to fruit. First crop of figs evidently destroyed. Heavy shipments of strawberries from Florence, Marion, Darlington and Marlboro counties were made this week.

Oats continue to look promising, except in Jeffries Creek section where they are a failure. Wheat is heading and growing nicely, although somewhat yellowed by the cool weather. Pastures have improved rapidly. Gardens are later than usual, but are yielding early vegetables enough to supply local demands over the whole State. Farm work is well up to the requirements of the various crops.

J. W. BAUER.

AFFAIRS AT

KEY WEST.

Activity of Cuban Colony--Another Spanish Prize Arrives.

Key West, Fla., May 2.—More naval officers from the big ships were ashore to-day than at any time since the fleet sailed for Cuban waters. Although the blockade is still being maintained by the smaller cruisers, and important movement is being planned. What it is, however, can only be conjectured. The day has been barren of actual news.

The Cuban colony here is developing great activity. A mass meeting was held this afternoon to perfect arrangements for the departure of about 200 patriots, who will go to Tampa and thence to Cuba, when the army moves over to the island. This party will act in concert with the United States regiments, but its members will serve more in the capacity of scouts, though members of the regular army. The party will be under the direction of Col. Mendez.

The officers and men of the fleet here are jubilant at Commodore Dewey's daring in running the batteries and achieving what is considered likely to be the greatest triumph of the war; but they long for a similar opportunity, and hope the significant conferences and movements of the past 24 hours indicate that it is not far distant.

The cruiser Marblehead is bringing in the Spanish steamer Argonauta, captured by the gunboat Nashville, off the South coast of Cuba, last Friday. The Argonauta was bound for Havana and had on board a colonel of the Spanish army, a surgeon, six officers and three non-commissioned officers.

The auxiliary cruiser Eagle, a transformed yacht, was scouring along the Southern coast of Cuba near Cienfuegos, when she sighted the Argonauta and started in pursuit. She was fired upon from the shore, but continued the chase and drove the big steamer along the coast toward the Marblehead and the Nashville. They put a couple of shots across her bows and she quickly hove to and surrendered. The Nashville took the Spanish army officers on board as prisoners of war and brought them into Key West.

She lies out in the stream, and no further particulars of her capture can be learned from her.

The Spanish officers on the Argonauta were Col. Corijo of the Third Spanish cavalry, his first lieutenant, surgeon major, seven other lieutenants and ten privates and non-commissioned officers. All were held as prisoners of war.

The steamer also carried a large cargo of arms and Mauser ammunition.

FLAG OF TRUCE FIRED ON.

Arrangements were then made to transfer the passengers and non-combatants to the shore. The women and children were placed in the first boat, and under cover of a flag of truce were soon bound toward the entrance of Cienfuegos. A second crew took the other passengers and landed them about 12:10 o'clock. The Eagle hoisted a signal conveying the intelligence that she had been fired upon by Spanish boats coming out the river. The Eagle immediately returned the fire with her six pounders and held her ground until the Marblehead came up. Both vessels then fired broadside after broadside up the entrance to the river. The boats coming down were two torpedo boats and one torpedo boat destroyer. After twenty minutes firing by the Eagle, the last two of which were participated in by the Marblehead, the Spanish boats ceased firing. It is considered certain they were damaged.

Cable Interrupted.

New York, May 2.—The central cable office of the Western Union Telegraph company this afternoon issued the following notice: "We are officially advised by the Eastern Extension company that the cable between Hong Kong and Manila is interrupted."

PLANS FOR THE INVASION OF CUBA.

Nine Transports Will Be at Tampa on Friday.

Tampa, Fla., May 2.—Two hundred native Cubans who have been quietly enlisted in New York city by Gen. Julio Sanguilly, arrived in Tampa to-night. They will be formed into a cavalry regiment under the leadership of the famous Cuban who enlisted them, and will probably embark for Cuba with the American troops. The rest of the regiment will be made up of Cubans from Tampa and vicinity. For the enlistment 42 recruiting offices were opened here to-day. The New Yorkers created a sensation as they marched down the street in a body, and they were followed for blocks by a mob of excited Cubans.

Friday the following fleet of vessels is expected to be waiting at the wharves at Tampa for the reception of the United States troops:

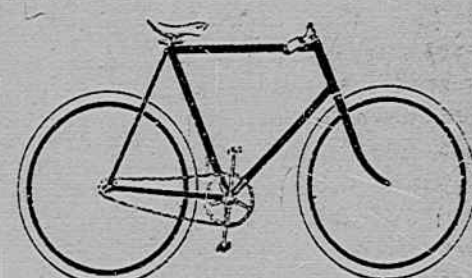
The Florida, Olivette and Mascotte of the Plant line; the Alamo and Comal of the Mallory line, the Comal being already in the stream here; the Aransas and possibly the Lampasas of the Morgan line, and the Allegheny and Berkshire of the Merchants and Miners line.

These boats are all contracted for and having a carrying capacity of about 6,000 troops. It is not believed, however, that the actual embarkation will take place before Sunday at the latest, much remains to be done in the way of gathering ammunition and supplies and several days must elapse before all is in readiness. It is believed that the force will be made up of 3,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry and 10 batteries of artillery, in all close to 5,000 men. Only one regiment of cavalry, the Ninth, is now in camp at Tampa, but the Tenth, now at Chickamauga, will, it is believed, be brought down here to fill out the quota.

The fortifications at Egmont and Mullet Keys, commanding the north and south channels of Tampa bay and on which work has been rapidly pushed, are now practically complete and ready for the mounting of the guns. Most of these, it is said, will be of the 8-inch calibre and such others as are at hand, the urgency of the situation not permitting the delay which would be unavoidable if heavy guns were to be mounted.

Bids for the purchase of about \$2,000,000 worth of coal for use of the government were opened to-day. No announcement of the successful bidder will be made pending a report to Washington. This coal will be brought into Tampa as fast as possible.

Washington, May 3.—Secretary Long has asked for the passage of a deficiency appropriation bill carrying an appropriation of \$18,000,000.



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